

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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December 19, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Philip L. Browning, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Browning', written over the name of the sender.

**SUBJECT: STAGE 1 CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES FOR WELFARE-TO-WORK
PARTICIPANTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Attached is the final report, "Stage 1 Child Care Subsidies for Welfare-to-Work Participants in Los Angeles County," prepared by the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office (CEO-SIB).

To help understand the extent to which the demand for child care among California's Welfare-to-Work participants is met, this study examines child care eligibility and utilization patterns within Los Angeles County's Welfare-to-Work population.

The report analyzes Welfare-to-Work child care trends from administrative data in two ways:

1. An examination of monthly data snapshots for the period between January 2004 and August 2006, revealing the extent of child care eligibility and utilization within the GAIN population at fixed points in time.
2. A cohort analysis providing a more dynamic understanding of child care trends, showing the proportions of GAIN participants eligible for child care and using child care services over their entire time in the program.

The following are key findings contained in the report:

- ◆ The monthly rate of child care utilization among GAIN participants eligible for these services fluctuated between thirty and thirty-three percent.
- ◆ Forty-five percent of eligible participants in the cohort used child care services at some point during their time in the GAIN program.

- ◆ Seventy percent in the cohort that stayed in GAIN for 36-months used child care services.
- ◆ GAIN participants in the cohort used child care an average of eight months.
- ◆ About forty percent in the cohort had their Stage 1 child care services request denied.
- ◆ Most child care requests were denied because participants failed to submit the proper paperwork.
- ◆ Of those participants with denied requests, over half were sanctioned, and seventy percent became noncompliant more than once during their cohort period.
- ◆ Of those participants with approved child care requests, only twenty-eight percent became sanctioned and less than half became noncompliant more than once.

My Department is reviewing this report and intends to convene a collaborative workgroup to develop an action plan consisting of recommendations to improve child care services to our GAIN participants. I will report to your Board when appropriate on the Department's progress in enhancing child care services.

PLB:kg

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors